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NEW YORK TIMES
26 October 1985

Panel Is Expected to Disclose Finding on Ex-C.I.A. Officer

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 — The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said today that he expects the committee to make public its findings on the case of a former C.I.A. officer who is believed to have given damaging information to the Soviet Union.

Senator Dave Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican, said some of the committee conclusions would be kept secret because of security considerations, but added in an interview, "Things will be made public."

The Intelligence Committee holds no public meetings and it rarely makes public statements on intelligence issues.

Mr. Durenberger also said that the Central Intelligence Agency had declined, thus far, to cooperate fully with the committee's inquiry into the case. He said the agency had refused to answer the committee's written questions about various aspects of Edward Lee Howard's career at the agency. The committee has already received secret briefings on the case.

Mr. Durenberger said William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, was resisting the committee's requests for information at a time when the agency was conducting its own inquiry into the case.

"He resents the idea that we are looking over his shoulder as he's doing his own internal investigation," said Mr. Durenberger. "I keep telling him, we are not trying to beat up on him, that this is not the old days."

Mr. Durenberger's reference was to the House and Senate committees of the mid-1970's, which held extensive hearings into alleged wrongdoings by

the agency. The public disclosures prompted extensive criticism of the agency and led to a number of reforms in procedures. Former agency officials say the hearings also severely damaged the C.I.A.'s morale.

Kathy Pherson, an agency spokesman, said the C.I.A. would have no comment since "we deal directly with the committee."

Mr. Durenberger said the committee would consult with the agency to assure that the sensitive information is not compromised in its public comments on the case. Mr. Durenberger, in explaining his discussions with Mr. Casey, said: "We will be the final arbiter of what it is appropriate to make public. Bill needs to understand that."

Mr. Howard, 33 years old, fled the country last month shortly before an arrest warrant was issued that charged him with espionage. Reagan Administration officials say he was traced to Helsinki, Finland, and is believed to have since crossed the border to the Soviet Union.

Officials have said that Mr. Howard provided information to Soviet intelligence shortly after the C.I.A. dismissed him for failing a routine lie detector test that indicated drug use and petty theft.

The officials say that Mr. Howard caused a serious security breach by disclosing the identity of A. G. Tolkahev, a Russian researcher who was said to be passing sensitive military information to American intelligence.

According to a statement issued earlier this month, the Intelligence Committee is examining all aspects of the case, beginning with the decision to hire Mr. Howard.

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